March 2026 | Official Newsletter of St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishers

THE LOOP

Tom Rondo, Editor



SJRVFF WELCOMES YOU!!

THE Annual Auction is HERE!

MARCH 18, 2026!

Doors will open at 6:00PM. Dinner will begin at 6:45PM

COST: $25.00 If you plan on eating. There is no cost to attend if you do not plan on eating.

You must RSVP: It is very important that we have an accurate count for the meals.
RSVP to **ROGER MCFALL** at rkmcfall4999@att.net or CALL or TEXT to **269-470-4801**.

YOU **MUST RSVP BY 3-13-26** TO HAVE A MEAL.

President's Letter

Happy March fellow SJRVFF members! Spring is just around the corner it's time to get your spring fishing fever on and we are here to help.

Our **Annual Club Auction** is on **March 18th**. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we really need you to come and support the club.

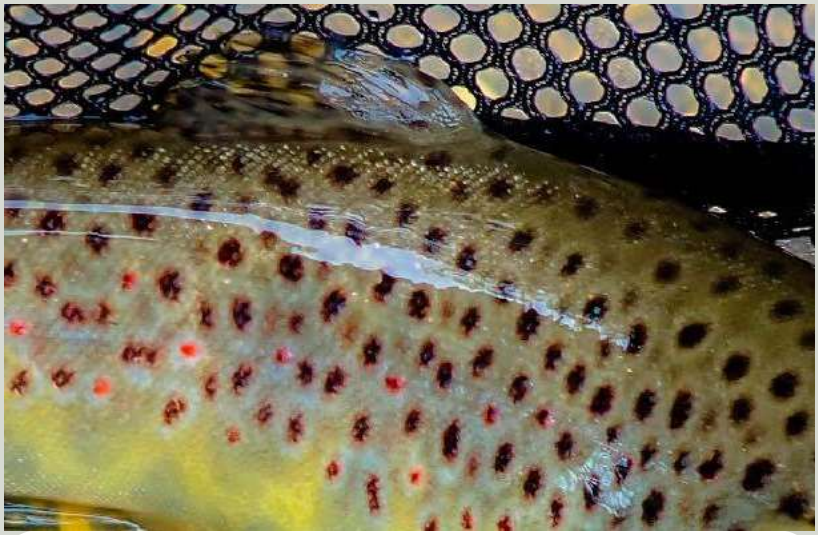
The **Annual Tie-a-Thon** is now set for April 11th, but please note that the location has changed. Because of a scheduling conflict, the event will now take place at the **Izaac Walton League**, **20400 Darden Rd, South Bend, IN 46637**. It's not too late to donate! Even if you do not tie on a regular basis you can participate by selecting a pattern from the tieathon.org web site and tie one hundred of them. It is that simple!

Our **Annual Opening Day Outing** will take place on **April 25th** at Bobbi LaBar's farm, which is located along the scenic Dowagiac Creek. Not only do you get the opportunity to enjoy good friendship, food, and comradery as well fish a little, you also have a chance to win a custom-built Winston Binney Bambo 4-piece 8-foot fly rod donated by a very generous member. Due to restrictions from our gaming license, tickets may be purchased at the event; however, the actual drawing must be held at the Elkhart Conservation Club and will be streamed live on Facebook. You will not need to be present to win. Please get your raffle tickets sold and money turned in ASAP.

Lastly the club needs your help. It is necessary to appoint a **new Secretary, two board members, and multiple committee heads** by the end of this year. Because of the importance of the positions, the board of directors has decided to start the search immediately. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please have them contract our **Don Reber** at 574-286-0157 or email donreber@gmail.com.

Thank you and I hope to see you next Wednesday.
Don

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING



MEETING DETAILS:

Doors open at 6:00 PM
Meal at 6:45
Live Auction starts about 7:00

Location:
Finnies Next Door
223 S. Main St. South Bend, IN

Parking is free.

Meal cost $25.00/person
including hors d'oeuvres

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Membership renewal dues can be paid by mail to:

SJRVFF
P.O. Box 933
South Bend, IN 46624

OR

You can pay your dues by credit card through the web site. Click on the "Join SJRVFF" tab and down toward the bottom you will see where you can pay via PayPal.

Dues are still just $20.00 for individuals and $35.00 for a family membership. We would like to get all the renewals processed before the end of February.

Anyone who joined the club after September 1st, 2025 is automatically covered for the year 2026.





WHAT'S GOING TO BE IN THE AUCTION?

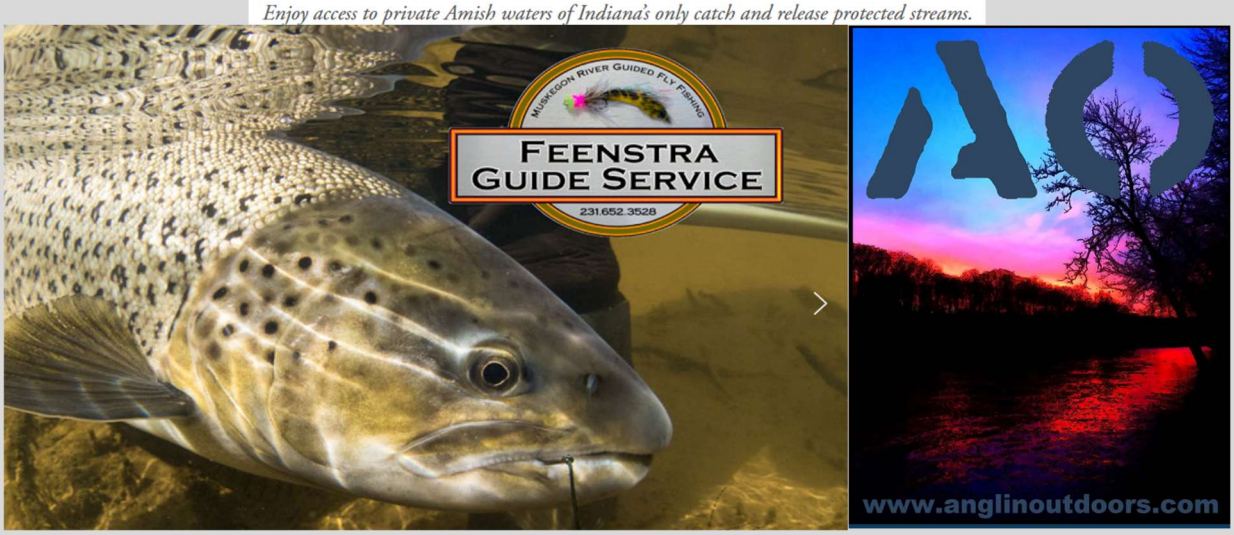
Beautiful artwork by AD Maddox and Jeff Kennedy.

Custom rods by Mike Beachy and Mike Wolfe.

An All-Star fly box including flies from Mike Schmidt, Matt Zudweg, Pat Ehlers, Peter Driver from Kilkenny, Ireland, Ed McCoy, and John Ray

A dozen fly boxes of flies tied by our own members

Guide trips from Amish Outfitters, Jay Anglin, Kevin Feenstra and much more!



DIRECTORS:

President:	Don Reber
Vice President:	Eric Graham
Treasurer:	Roger McFall
Assistant Treasurer:	Jim Oresko
Secretary:	David Van Antwerp
1 Yr Director:	Vacant
1 Yr Director:	John Mertes
2 Yr Director:	Jake Rigdon
2 Yr Director:	Greg Sautter
3 Yr Director:	Keith Frainier
3 Yr Director:	Ron Weaver



COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Activities Coor:	Keith Frainier
Conservation:	Tim Scott
Financial Review:	John Mertes
Membership:	Don Reber
Nominating Committee:	Vacant
Ghillie:	Vacant
Raffle Director:	Greg Sautter
Webmaster/Social Media:	Vacant
Audio/Visual/IT:	Brandon Rasler
Newsletter/Loop:	Tom Rondo
Awards:	Vacant
Grants:	Vacant
Education:	Vacant





Tie-a-Thon

Hey everyone!

Just an update with some important news.

The Numbers: First, we have 23,200 flies committed and 13,600 in-house! Thank you, and keep up the great work!

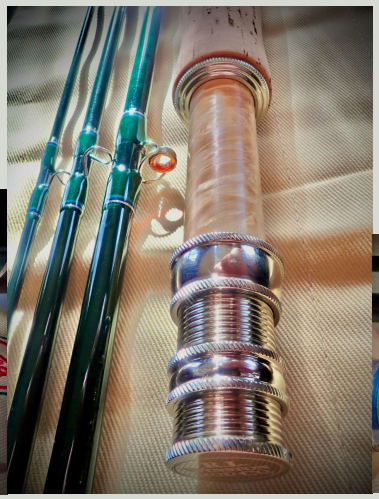
Wrap-Up Event at Izaak Walton League of South Bend
The wrap-up event is scheduled for April 11th; however, the location has changed. Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not be holding our wrap-up event at the Elkhart Conservation Club.

We will now be holding the wrap-up event at:
Izaak Walton League of South Bend
20400 Darden Rd.
South Bend, IN 46637

FUNDRAISER RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE:
As you know, a big portion of our financial support comes from our fundraising raffle.
Tickets are $25.00 each, and we are only selling 200 tickets.

Prizes

Grand Prize: R.L. Winston Rod Company AIR 2, 9-foot, 4-piece, 4wt, custom built by Jeff Loosmoore or $500.00


Second Prize: Hand-tied flies by esteemed fly tyer and angler, John Mangona

Third Prize: JimsFlyCo Dry Fly Cape, Grade 1, Badger

Fourth Prize: Whiting Heritage Hackle Dry Fly Cape – Badger

Fifth Prize: A print of the official 20th Anniversary Tie-a-Thon artwork

The winning tickets will be drawn on **April 11th** at the wrap-up party at the **Izaak Walton League** of South Bend during lunchtime.

How to Purchase Tickets: Per the State of Indiana Gaming Division, here are the approved payment methods:

Cash

Checks made out to Tie-a-Thon (This is the easiest way to purchase tickets and mail payment.)
Debit card — please contact Tie-a-Thon Treasurer Don Reber at 574-286-0157 (call or text) to process a debit card payment.
Credit cards can be processed face-to-face only, per the State of Indiana.
Unfortunately, the State of Indiana does not allow Venmo or PayPal, unless onsite.

Checks can be mailed to:
Tie-a-Thon
711 Forest Ave.
South Bend, IN 46616

SWAG for Sale!
A new hat will come with flies and the 20th Anniversary decal.
We also have some of last year's hats and decals, along with leftover T-shirts.
Hat and decal combo: $15.00
T-shirts: $5.00 each

Inventory:
Green: 2 – XL (unisex)
Tan: 1 – S (women's), 1 – S (unisex)
Fluorescent Orange: 1 – S (women's)
Burnt Orange: 2 – S (unisex)

TIM SCOTT - CO-FOUNDER
TIE-A-THON
711 FOREST AVE.
SOUTH BEND, IN 46616
+1-(574)-538-1936
www.tieathon.org

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NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 14, 2026

The Loop is published the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May. If you have story, article idea, photo, artwork, or need to get something off your chest.
Contact me at: **thomas.rondo@gmail.com**